

To: Burkhardt, Mark[Burkhardt.Mark@epa.gov]
Cc: Buhl, Rick[Buhl.Rick@epa.gov]; Ostrander, David[Ostrander.David@epa.gov]; McComb, Martin[McComb.Martin@epa.gov]; Wieber, John[Wieber.John@epa.gov]; Copt, Britta[Copt.Britta@epa.gov]; Myers, Craig[Myers.Craig@epa.gov]; R8 Environmental Unit Leader[R08_Environmental_Unit_Leader@epa.gov]; R8 Documentation Unit Leader[R08_Documentation_Unit_Leader@epa.gov]
From: Christenson, Dave
Sent: Sun 8/23/2015 2:10:16 PM
Subject: RE: Regional Labs Support for Animas

My sincere apologies for not getting back to you more timely on this. Its been a rough two & a half weeks for me. I first noticed and read your email yesterday.

First, big thanks to you & your staff, especially Micheal Bade & Bill Batschelet for jumping on water total metals analyses the week of August 10. Your & their service was timely and

Deliberative Process/Ex. 5

being, the Gold King Mine response has been moving fast since we last spoke. That is my biggest excuse for being slow getting back to you.

In terms of ongoing analytical services, through OSC Marty McComb, the incident response team decided to get nearly all of its analytical services from Test America. As it turns out this included all samples from R6 & R9 as well. As far as I know (AFAIK), all Gold King Mine water samples shipped August 11 or later were sent to Test America. As a sub to Weston START, Techlaw analyzed a couple rounds of sediment samples the week of August 10. AFAIK, all sediment samples shipped from Durango August 13 or later were shipped to Test America for analyses. We also had some discussions with Don Goodrich about using CLP for Gold King Mine analyses, but that has not panned out so far. There were some discussions about contingencies in the event Test America could not provide 24 hour TAT. AFAIK, that hasn't come up. Production lab capacity seems unlikely to be an issue in the future since sample volume is expected to decrease.

"We" decided to get the R8 & Techlaw labs out of "production analyses" for the Gold King Mine to leave those labs available for (urgent) analytical contingencies as they arose. As an example, Techlaw collected an Animas river water sample (set?) last week for chlorophyll analyses that was analyzed on an expedited bases by the R8 lab (probably everyone on this email knew that already?). I mention this as an example of the strength of freeing up the R8 lab & Techlaw from production work to be available for urgent, unanticipated analytical services. I

don't remember how much Marty or other IMT staff were involved in the above decisions. I was somewhere in the loop, but decision making authority was not formally delegated to me. There could be some other R8 lab or ESAT analytical services for the Gold King Mine that I am not aware of.

Personal Matters/Ex. 6

Sorry for being so late & verbose. Call if you need clarification. Thanks again for your help with analyses.

From: Burkhardt, Mark
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:42 AM
To: Christenson, Dave
Subject: Regional Labs Support for Animas
Importance: High

Dave,

Are you going to need the regional labs (including R8) for any of the Animas response? I need to start the coordination now or I need to let them know to start taking work from their own regions. Thanks, Mark

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“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

Albert Einstein